

Attorney Docket Number: 6773USD1
Filing Date: 11/20/01

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Presently Amended) A device for suturing an end of a first body duct to a hole in the side of a second body duct, said device comprising:

a shaft for holding the end of the first body duct and positioning said end adjacent to the hole in the side of the second body duct; and

a plurality of needles arranged on the shaft to be advanced along a plurality of paths, wherein the shaft has a tubular surface against which the needles are positioned to guide said needles along a portion of said path, each path first passes radially into and forwardly out of the end of the first body duct and into the hole of the second body duct and then everts so that the needles will pass outwardly through tissue peripheral to the hole when the end of the first body duct is on the shaft adjacent to the hole in the second body duct. [A device as in claim 2,].

6. (Presently Amended) A device as in claim 5[2], wherein the shaft further comprises a plunger for advancing said needles through the first body duct.

7. (Original) A device as in claim 6, wherein the plunger includes suture storage for a plurality of sutures each coupled to one of said plurality of needles.

8. (Original) A device as in claim 6, wherein the plunger comprises a plurality of elongate members for advancing said needles through the first body duct.

Attorney Docket Number: 6773USD1
Filing Date: 11/20/01

9. (Original) A device as in claim 8, wherein the elongate members comprise tubes each containing a suture coupled to one of said needles.

10. (Presently Amended) A device as in claim 5[1], wherein the shaft [structure] comprises a plurality of guide channels which define said plurality of paths.

11. (Presently Amended) A device as in claim 10, wherein the guide channels are arranged in a radial configuration about the [a] shaft [of said structure].

12. (Original) A device as in claim 10, wherein the guide channels comprise guide tubes.

13. (Original) A device as in claim 10, wherein the guide channels have a longitudinal slot along a length of at least of one said guide channels.

14. (Previously Amended) A device as in claim 10, wherein the guide channels each have a first portion and a second portion, wherein the first and second portions are separated by a gap configured to receive the end of the first body duct.

15. (Presently Amended) A device as in claim 10, wherein at least one of said guide channels has a substantially curved configuration so that one of said needles passing through said guide channel will evert to pass outwardly through tissue peripheral to the hole when the end of the first body duct is on the [structure] shaft adjacent to the hole in the second body duct.

16. (Original) A device as in claim 14, wherein the second portion of the guide channel comprises a guide tube having a J-shaped section for guiding one of said needles along a portion of said path.

17. (Original) A device as in claim 16, wherein the second portion of the guide channel tube has a longitudinal slot extending along the length of the guide tube having a J-shaped section.

18. (Presently Amended) A device as in claim 14, wherein: the first portion of the guide channel is adapted to be positioned outside the first body duct and has a distal opening positioned to open towards an outer surface of the first body duct when the first body duct is mounted on the

Attorney Docket Number: 6773USD1
Filing Date: 11/20/01

[structure] shaft; and the second portion of the guide channel is adapted to be positioned within a lumen of the first body duct when the first body duct is mounted on the [structure] shaft, said second portion of the guide channel receiving one of said needles advanced from the first portion and passing through a body duct wall.

19. (Original) A device as in claim 18, wherein the second portion of the guide channel has a J-shaped configuration.

20. (Original) A device as in claim 18, wherein the second portion of the guide channel includes a longitudinal slot extending the length of the second portion.

21. (Previously Amended) A device as in claim 18, wherein the needles are of sufficient length to extend from the first portion of the guide channel, through the second portion, and through a tissue layer of the second body duct.

22. (Presently Amended) A device as in claim [1]5, wherein said needles comprise a shape-memory alloy.

23. (Presently Amended) A device as in claim [1]5, wherein said needles comprise a superelastic material.

24. (Presently Amended) A device as in claim [1]5, wherein: said needles each have an arcuate profile when unconstrained; said structure comprises a tubular constraint having a lumen surface, wherein the needles are movable between a first position within the tubular constraint where said needles have a substantially straight configuration and a second position within the constraint wherein said needles extend beyond the tubular constraint and assume said arcuate profile.

25. (Original) A device as in 24, wherein said tubular constraint comprises an inner tube coaxially mounted with an outer tube, said needles mounted on the distal end of the inner tube wherein said inner tube is movable between a first and second position with the outer tube.

Attorney Docket Number: 6773USD1
Filing Date: 11/20/01

26. (Presently Amended) A device as in claim [1]5, wherein the [structure] shaft comprises: an outer tube having a passage; and an inner tube slidably mounted in the passage of the outer tube and having the needles fixedly secured to a distal end thereof, said needles adapted to penetrate one end of the first body duct when the body duct is mounted within said inner tube.

27. (Original) A device as in claim 26, wherein: said needles each have an arcuate profile when unconstrained; said inner tube is movable between a first position within the outer tube where said needles have a substantially straight configuration and a second position within the outer tube wherein said needles extend beyond the outer tube and assume said arcuate profile.

28. (Original) A device as in claim 26, wherein the inner tube has an opening in a wall of the inner tube spaced apart from a distal end of the inner tube, said opening allowing for the insertion of the first body duct into a lumen of the inner tube.

29. (Original) A device as in claim 26, wherein the inner tube is coupled to a plunger which reciprocates said inner tube between a forwardly advanced position and a retracted position.

30. (Original) A device as in claim 26, wherein the outer tube and inner tube are in coaxial alignment and have a slideable relationship relative to each other.

31. (Original) A device as in claim 26, wherein each of said needles has a suture attached to the distal end of said needles.

32. (Original) A device as in claim 26, wherein the needles have arcuate shape memory so that they evert as they are advanced forward.

33. (Original) A device as in claim 32, wherein the needles have a sharpened tip pointing proximally when the needles are in a substantially curved configuration.

34. (Original) A device as in claim 32, wherein said needles comprise a shape memory material.

Attorney Docket Number: 6773USD1
Filing Date: 11/20/01

35. (Original) A device as in claim 26, wherein the needles in said second position has a length sufficient to extend from the inner tube through a wall of the second body duct such that a sharpened tip of the needle penetrates completely through said wall.

36. (Original) A device as in claim 26, wherein the needles have a releasable connection with said inner tube.

37. (Presently Amended) A device as in claim [1]5, further comprising means for guiding said needles through the first and second body ducts.

38. (Original) A device as in claim 37, wherein the means for guiding the needles comprises a plurality of guide channels.

39. (Original) A device as in claim 37, wherein the means for guiding the needles comprises a plurality of needles having an arcuate profile when unconstrained and mounted within a tubular constraint, said needles movable between a first position where the tubular constraint forces the needles to a substantially straight configuration and a second position wherein the needle assumes a configuration exhibiting said arcuate profile.

40-61. (Canceled)

62. (Canceled)